


REMARKS

The multiple dependency of claims 10, 14-16, and 19-21 has been removed in order to put these claims in a form consistent with U.S. practice. A copy of the claims as amended is attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:

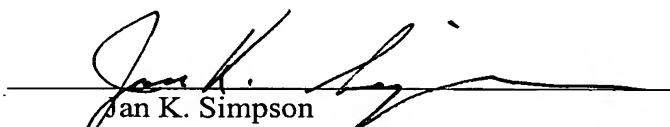

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(A)

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animal when the pet food product is provided to the pet animal on a regular, preferably daily basis.

5 9. A packaged pet food product according to claim 8, wherein in addition to or in partial substitution for Valerian root extract and/or Kava root extract, Ginkgo Bilboa extract and St John's Wort extract is present in physiological relevant amounts.

10 10. A packaged pet food product according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, wherein the functional ingredients are provided in the following amounts, by weight of finished product, the balance being made-up by the manufactured food substrate and other nutritional supplements;

- Valerian root extract – from about 0.3 to about 1.0%;
- Kava root extract – from about 0.3 to about 3%;
- 15 • if present, Ginkgo Biloba extract – from about 0.1 to about 1.0%;
- if present, St John's Wort extract – from about 0.1 to about 1.0%;
- vitamin B complex – from about 0.5 to about 3.0%; and
- magnesium salt – from about 0.5 to about 2.5%.

20 11. A packaged pet food product according to claim 10, wherein the functional additives are provided in the following amounts:

- Valerian root extract –about 0.4%;
- Kava root extract – about 2%;
- vitamin B complex –about 2.5%;
- 25 • magnesium sulphate–about 1.8%.

12. A packaged pet food product claim 1, wherein the functional additives include two or more additives selected from the group consisting of Yucca extract, vegetable charcoal and salts of zinc acetate, said functional additives
30 being present in amounts sufficient to reduce flatulence odour when the pet food product is provided to a pet animal on a regular, preferably daily basis.

13. A packaged pet food product according to claim 12, wherein the functional additives are provided in the following amounts, by weight of finished product, the balance being made-up by the manufactured food substrate and other nutritional supplements:
- 5 • Yucca Shidigera or Elata extract – from about 0.05 to about 0.11%, preferably 0.06%;
 - Vegetable charcoal – from about 6 to about 14%, preferably 6%; and
 - zinc acetate – from about 0.3 to about 0.8%, preferably 0.4%.
- 10 14. A packaged pet food product according to claim ~~3, 6, 10 or 13~~, wherein the food substrate includes dry ingredients comprising animal protein, carbohydrates and an anti-microbial agent, and at least one liquid ingredient in a predetermined ratio to the sum of the dry ingredients.
- 15 15. A packaged pet food product according to claim ~~4, 7 or 11~~, wherein the food substrate includes dry ingredients comprising animal protein, carbohydrates and an anti-microbial agent, and at least one liquid ingredient in a predetermined ratio to the sum of the dry ingredients
- 20 16. A packaged pet food product according to claim ~~14 or 15~~, wherein the animal protein constitutes from about 17% to 50% by weight of the dry ingredients.
- 25 17. A packaged pet food product according to claim 16, wherein the animal protein is derived from beef, pork, mutton, poultry, fish or a combination of these.
18. A packaged pet food product according to claim 17, wherein the animal protein includes gelatins.
- 30 19. A packaged pet food product according to claim 14, ~~15, 17 or 18~~, wherein the carbohydrates include simple and complex carbohydrates.

19. A packaged pet food product according to claim 14, ~~15, 17 or 18~~, wherein the carbohydrates include simple and complex carbohydrates. wherein the complex carbohydrates include rice flour, and wherein the simple carbohydrates include glucose, glycerol and/or sugar.

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20. A packaged pet food product claim 14, ~~15, 17 or 18~~, wherein the antioxidant is rosemary extract.

21. A packaged pet food product according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein the
10 water constitutes about 10 to about 20% by weight of the finished product.

22. A packaged pet food product in accordance with claim 16, in the form of a palatable, 'treat'-sized, chewy tablet, including the following ingredients in proportions by weight of finished product:

- 15
- gelatine – from about 3 to about 7%;
 - glucose – from about 2 to about 5%;
 - sugar – from about 2 to about 5%;
 - glycerol – from about 1 to about 4%;
 - potassium sorbate – from about 0.2 to about 0.5%;

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 - rosemary extract – from about 0.01 to about 0.05%,
 - water – from about 10 to about 20%; and
 - the balance being composed of pulverised meat (approx 50%), cereal flour (approx 11%), sugar (approx 8%), glycerine (approx 9%), citric acid (approx 1%) and preservatives (approx 0.1%).

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23. A packaged pet food product according to claim 22, wherein the product is provided in the form of a biscuit or multi-piece biscuit that is easily divisible so as to facilitate administration to a pet animal of a desired amount of the product corresponding with a desired dosage of the functional additives.

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24. A packaged pet food product according to claim 22, wherein the product is provided in the form of a food bar, having substantially uniform

CURRENT PENDING CLAIMS

CLAIMS:

1. A packaged, treat-size, mammal pet food product, including:
 - a manufactured food substrate; and
- 5 • a combination of functional, non-palatable additives including at least one selected from the group including sugar beet pulp and slippery elm; and optionally including further additives selected from the group including L-glutamine, D-glucosamine sulphate and as an optional additive inulin; wherein
10 said functional additives are present in amounts sufficient to promote or maintain gastro-intestinal health when the pet food product is ingested by a pet animal on a regular, preferably daily, basis; and wherein said food substrate is present in a proportion sufficient to mask the flavour and/or odour of the functional additives.
- 15 2. A packaged pet food product according to claim 1, wherein the functional additives are provided in the following amounts, by weight of finished product, the balance being made-up by the manufactured food substrate and other nutritional supplements:
 - L-glutamine – from about 3 to about 5%;
 - 20 • D-glucosamine sulphate – from about 3 to about 5%;
 - sugar beet pulp, if present – from about 4 to about 8%;
 - inulin, if present – from about 3.0 to about 4.5%; and
 - slippery elm, if present – from about 1.5 to about 2.5%.
- 25 3. A packaged pet food product according to claim 2, wherein the functional additives are provided in the following amounts: L-glutamine – about 4%, D-glucosamine sulphate – about 4%, sugar beet pulp – about 6, slippery elm – about 2%.
- 30 4. A packaged, treat-size, mammal pet food product, including:
 - a manufactured food substrate; and
 - a combination of non-palatable, functional additives, including a combination of vitamin E, vitamin B complex, evening primrose oil, vitamin C

and marigold meal; wherein said functional additives are present in amounts sufficient to strengthen or maintain a pet animal's natural body defences (immune system function) when the pet food product is provided to the pet animal on a regular, preferably daily, basis; and wherein said food substrate is present in a proportion sufficient to mask the flavour and/or odour of the non-palatable additives.

5. A packaged pet food product according to claim 4, wherein the functional additives are provided in the following amounts, by weight of finished product, the balance being made up by the manufactured food substrate and other nutritional supplements;

- vitamin E – about 1.0 to about 2.5%;
- vitamin B complex – about 0.10 to about 0.25%;
- evening primrose oil – about 0.7 to about 2.5%;
- vitamin C – about 0.5 to about 3.0%;
- marigold meal – about 0.4 to about 0.8%.

6. A packaged pet food product according to claim 5, wherein the functional additives are provided in the following amounts: vitamin E – about 2%, vitamin B complex – about 0.2%, evening primrose oil – about 0.8%, vitamin C – about 2.5% and marigold meal – about 0.6.

7. A packaged, treat-size, mammal pet food product, including:

- a manufactured food substrate; and
- a combination of non-palatable, functional additives, including Valerian root extract, Kava root extract, vitamin B complex and a magnesium salt; wherein said functional additives are present in amounts sufficient to promote calmness and/or improved behaviour of a pet animal when the pet food product is provided to the pet animal on a regular, preferably daily basis; and wherein said food substrate is present in a proportion sufficient to mask the flavour and/or odor of the non-palatable additives.

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

8. A packaged pet food product according to claim 7, wherein in addition to, or in partial substitution for, either the Valerian root extract and/or the Kava root extract, Gingko Bilboa extract and/or St John's Wort extract is present in physiologically relevant amounts.

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9. A packaged pet food product according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the functional ingredients are provided in the following amounts, by weight of finished product, the balance being made-up by the manufactured food substrate and other nutritional supplements;

- 10
- Valerian root extract – from about 0.3 to about 1.0%;
 - Kava root extract – from about 0.3 to about 3%;
 - if present, Gingko Biloba extract – from about 0.1 to about 1.0%;
 - if present, St John's Wort extract – from about 0.1 to about 1.0%;
 - vitamin B complex – from about 0.5 to about 3.0%; and
- 15
- magnesium salt – from about 0.5 to about 2.5%.

10. A packaged pet food product according to claim 9, wherein the functional additives are provided in the following amounts:

- Valerian root extract –about 0.4%;
- 20
- Kava root extract – about 2%;
 - vitamin B complex –about 2.5%;
 - magnesium sulphate—about 1.8%.

11. A packaged, treat-size, mammal pet food product, including:

- 25
- a manufactured food substrate; and
 - a combination of non-palatable, functional additives, including two or more additives selected from the group consisting of Yucca extract, vegetable charcoal and salts of zinc acetate; wherein said functional additives are present in amounts sufficient to reduce flatulence odour when the pet food

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product is provided to a pet animal on a regular, preferably daily basis; and wherein said food substrate is present in a proportion sufficient to mask the flavour and/or odor of the non-palatable additives.

5 12. A packaged pet food product according to claim 11, wherein the functional additives are provided in the following amounts, by weight of finished product, the balance being made-up by the manufactured food substrate and other nutritional supplements:

- 10 • Yucca Shidigera or Elata extract – from about 0.05 to about 0.11%, preferably 0.06%;
- Vegetable charcoal – from about 6 to about 14%, preferably 6%; and
- zinc acetate – from about 0.3 to about 0.8%, preferably 0.4%.

15 13. A packaged pet food product according to claim 2, 5, 9 or 12, wherein the food substrate includes dry ingredients comprising animal protein, carbohydrates and an anti-microbial agent, and at least one liquid ingredient in a predetermined ratio to the sum of the dry ingredients.

20 14. A packaged pet food product according to claim 3, 6 or 10, wherein the food substrate includes dry ingredients comprising animal protein, carbohydrates and an anti-microbial agent, and at least one liquid ingredient in a predetermined ratio to the sum of the dry ingredients

25 15. A packaged pet food product according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the animal protein constitutes from about 17% to 50% by weight of the dry ingredients.

30 16. A packaged pet food product according to claim 15, wherein the animal protein is derived from beef, pork, mutton, poultry, fish or a combination of these.

17. A packaged pet food product according to claim 16, wherein the animal protein includes gelatins.

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18. A packaged pet food product according to claim 13, 14, 16 or 17, wherein the carbohydrates include simple and complex carbohydrates wherein the complex carbohydrates include rice flour, and wherein the simple
5 carbohydrates include glucose, glycerol and/or sugar.
19. A packaged pet food product claim 13, 14, 16 or 17, wherein the antioxidant is rosemary extract.
- 10 20. A packaged pet food product according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the water constitutes about 10 to about 20% by weight of the finished product.
21. A packaged pet food product in accordance with claim 15, in the form of a palatable, 'treat'-sized, chewy tablet, including the following ingredients in
15 proportions by weight of finished product:
- gelatine – from about 3 to about 7%;
 - glucose – from about 2 to about 5%;
 - sugar – from about 2 to about 5%;
 - glycerol – from about 1 to about 4%;
 - 20 • potassium sorbate – from about 0.2 to about 0.5%;
 - rosemary extract – from about 0.01 to about 0.05%,
 - water – from about 10 to about 20%; and
 - the balance being composed of pulverised meat (approx 50%), cereal
flour (approx 11%), sugar (approx 8%), glycerine (approx 9%), citric acid
25 (approx 1%) and preservatives (approx 0.1%).
22. A packaged pet food product according to claim 21, wherein the product is provided in the form of a biscuit or multi-piece biscuit that is easily
divisible so as to facilitate administration to a pet animal of a desired amount
30 of the product corresponding with a desired dosage of the functional additives.
23. A packaged pet food product according to claim 23, wherein the product is provided in the form of a food bar, having substantially uniform

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concentration of the functional additives throughout the length thereof, and wherein the food bar includes markings, etchings or the like for indicating where the food bar may be broken so as to provide the pet animal with a desired dosage of the functional additives.

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24. A process for manufacturing a palatable, treat-sized pet food product according to claim 13 or 14, including the steps of:

- mixing dry ingredients including animal protein, carbohydrates and an antimicrobial agent;
- 10 • heating the dry ingredient mixture to between 50 to 80°C, preferably about 60°C, for about 5 to 15 minutes, preferably about 10 minutes;
- adding the functional additives to the dry ingredient mixture;
- mixing the resultant mixture for about 5 minutes;
- heating, in a separate container liquid ingredients, including water and
15 an antioxidant, to between 60 to 85°C, preferably about 75 °C;
- adding the heated liquid ingredients to the resultant mixture to obtain a moistened mixture;
- heating the moistened mixture to between 60 to 80°C, preferably about 75°C, for about 5 minutes to obtain a processed mixture;
- 20 • substantially immediately after the heating step subjecting the processed mixture to a cooling step to achieve product temperature of between 40 to 60°C, preferably about 50°C; and moulding the cooled mixture by impression moulding or cutting techniques so as to form a packagable product of predetermined size, shape and weight.

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25. The process of claim 24, further including the step of making markings, etchings or the like on the packagable product so as to enable the product in use, to be easily broken into pieces of a particular size.